



Residency Program in Pharmacy Practice

The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (VA ECHCS) headquartered in Denver, Colorado is a 128 bed general medical/surgical teaching hospital and a 60 bed teaching nursing home affiliated with the medical, pharmacy, and nursing schools of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. VA ECHCS staff provide care for over 40,000 patients annually. A wide range of inpatient and ambulatory care services are provided, including internal medicine, primary care, surgery, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, cardiology, oncology, and mental health.

Residency Goals & Objectives

The goals of the residency program are to develop pharmacists in the skills necessary to become competent, confident and compassionate

providers of pharmaceutical care, as individuals and as members of the health care team. Residents will assure safe, cost-effective and appropriate drug therapy. They will take responsibility for solving drug related problems and assuring optimal drug therapy outcomes. Residents will become skilled educators and providers of drug information for patients and other health care providers. They will use clinical and administrative insight in the operation of medication use systems and in researching and solving pharmacy related problems. They will demonstrate professional maturity and commitment through continuous self-improvement.

Program Description

The residency is a 12-month period of education and experience in clinical pharmacy practice while at the same time tailoring the program to the resident's needs. The resident's experiences throughout the year will include acute care, ambulatory care, anticoagulation, critical care, pain clinic, formulary management, and practice management. Residents will work collegially with physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and psychologists. Residents will provide care in a range of ambulatory clinics including anticoagulation, coronary artery disease, diabetes, hepatitis C, hypertension, internal medicine, lipid, and pain clinics. Residents will prepare and present patient care conferences, case presentations, lectures, journal clubs, and pharmacist staff development sessions. Residents will have the opportunity to teach and precept Pharm.D. students from the University of Colorado. A residency project is required and each resident will present their project results.

Residency Preceptors

Resident preceptors are clinical pharmacy specialists who practice in ambulatory care, acute care, critical care, geriatrics or long term care, formulary management, and practice management. Clinical pharmacy preceptors place a high value on resident training and are readily accessible to residents.

Elective Opportunities

Residents may choose up to three 4-week elective experiences during the year. The elective time is used to tailor specific interests of the resident within the training program. Common elective rotations are cardiology, geriatrics & home-based primary care, infectious diseases, neurology, oncology psychiatry, and teaching & academia.

Typical Resident Schedule

July-August:

Orientation to Acute/Ambulatory Care (6 weeks)

September-June:

- Ambulatory Care Clinics – 12 weeks
- Acute Care Medicine – 4 weeks
- Critical Care Medicine – 4 weeks
- Pain Consult Service* – 4 weeks
- Opioid Management Clinic* – 4 weeks
- Project Time – 5 weeks
- Formulary Management** – 4 weeks
- Practice Management** – 4 weeks
- Electives – 12 weeks

* & ** denote concurrent experiences

Residents also work up to 34 weekend staffing shifts for the Inpatient Pharmacy. The staffing commitment averages a little less than the equivalent of every other weekend.

Benefits

The residency program provides a competitive stipend. Residents accumulate 13 days of paid vacation time & have 10 paid holidays per year. Sick leave is accumulated at a rate of 4 hours every 2 weeks. Health insurance is available. Residents have their own individual office space including a computer and file storage. The hospital subscribes to a wide range of electronic reference materials including Micromedex, Up to Date, Natural Medicines Database, and a large number of electronic journals. If the resident desires, there is the opportunity to earn extra money through working as a staff pharmacist during non-duty hours.

Qualifications

Must be a United States citizen & have graduated from an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education accredited college or school of pharmacy. All residents are required to become licensed pharmacists, but they can be licensed in any of the states of the United States.

For information or questions, please contact:

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How to Apply

Contact the Residency Program Director (RPD) via email. Applicants will receive a return email containing information about the program & required VA application forms, which include:

- 1) a letter expressing interest in our program & why you have chosen to do a residency;
- 2) curriculum vitae;
- 3) all college transcripts;
- 4) one example of technical writing such as a drug information question/answer, drug monograph, or other referenced professional paper that has been submitted for college/school of pharmacy credit;
- 5) VA application forms 10-2850c & 3026;
- 6) three letters of recommendation.

All materials should be submitted on or before January 10th (short delay exceptions only with prior permission from the RPD)

(document reviewed 9/14/09)

Postgraduate Year 1

Pharmacy Residency Program



*Accredited by the
American Society of
Health-System
Pharmacists
since 1983*

**VA Eastern Colorado
Health Care System
Denver, Colorado**

